



LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER

CONGRESSWOMAN

The Collecting and Analyzing Resources Integral and Necessary for Guidance (CARING) for Social Determinants Act

Research shows that the conditions where people live, learn, work, and play, also known as the social determinants of health, play an outsized role in health outcomes and cost. We also know that this is particularly true for children. The impact of social determinants can be felt by our young people through lifelong consequences for health status.

Addressing social determinants of health that affect children can reduce unnecessary use of resources, lead to better outcomes for chronic diseases, such as asthma, and set young Americans up for healthier lives as adults. Some State Medicaid programs are implementing strategies to do this under existing Medicaid authority, but there is not clear guidance on what states can do. There is an opportunity for more states to address social determinants in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) by leveraging existing and waiver authorities.

The CARING for Social Determinants Act of 2019

The CARING for Social Determinants Act will provide guidance to State Medicaid programs regarding how they can implement strategies to address social determinants of health under existing Medicaid authority or waivers. In fact, a handful of State Medicaid programs have already begun testing innovative delivery and payment models designed to improve health outcomes and reduce costs. This legislation will direct CMS to clarify and disseminate strategies that states can implement under current Medicaid and CHIP authority or through waivers to address social determinants of health, including strategies that specifically target the pediatric population.

Specifically, the CARING for Social Determinants Act will direct the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to provide guidance to States about:

- Strategies to address social determinants of health through Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP);
- How to encourage and incentivize managed care organizations to address social determinants of health; and
- Examples of how States are currently addressing social determinants of health.

